

Lamoni  
Chronicle  
Lamoni, IA  
Circ. 977  
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7/28/2005  
45925



## Community Forum Slated For Tuesday

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By Randy Meline

The August Community Forum's featured speakers will be Becky Layton, Executive Director of the Decatur County Development Corporation and Sibylla Brown, of Leon, a promoter of preserving oak "savannas" (timber areas) in the county and southern Iowa.

The meeting will be held at noon, Tuesday, August 2, at the Lamoni Community Center. A light lunch will be available for \$4. Reservations are not necessary. Every one is welcome.

Layton will provide an overview of the State of Iowa's 'Great Places' Program, an initiative developed to pump energy into Iowa's economic and cultural future. Layton will discuss the components of a 'great place:' a unique sense of place, engaging experiences, a rich social fabric, a vital economy, a pleasing environment, a strong foundation and a creative culture. The Decatur

County Development Corporation is striving to uncover and restore the "hidden treasures" in the county and southern Iowa.

Sibylla and Bill Brown farm near Leon and represent the Southern Iowa Oak Savanna Alliance. They have been using controlled burns and other conservation methods to restore the oak savannas on their land. According to the Browns, Decatur County land is three-quarters restorable oak savanna. They believe the savanna restoration program is part of what will make the county a 'great place.' Sibylla will talk about oak savannas and what makes them so special.

There will also be a status report at the forum about progress made paving the western portion of the Lamoni bike trail. Area volunteers have been toiling in the recent heat to move the paving project along. Volunteers are still needed. If interested, contact Bill Morain at 784-8344. See you at the forum next Tuesday!